

February 20, 2023

**RE: H.B.5653** An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition to Provide Funding for Community Gun Violence and Intervention Program Grants

To the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Michele McBrien. I am a small business owner with a Federal Firearms License, firearms instructor, and Competition Shooter. **I STRONGLY OPPOSE Proposed Bill H.B. 5653.** I am a lawful gun owner who believes in personal responsibility when it comes to firearm ownership. I believe in order to be a safe firearm owner, one must practice your skills so that if ever needed, you are prepared to the best of your abilities. Training is a huge part of gun ownership and this proposed bill goes against that concept to the highest degree.

We already are taxed more than most states in the United States. Our utility bills have doubled if not more, groceries cost more than ever, property taxed, income taxed, plastic bags are taxed, CT residents are **already subject to an 11% tax** on top of the CT Sales Tax for ammunition. **WHEN DOES IT END?** This tax will do nothing but make us all **LESS** safe. People will not have the spendable income to buy ammo....now that may be what the end goal is for some of you making these laws **BUT**, you must also own the consequences of your actions. When people have to decide between paying for the bare necessities for their families (rent/mortgage, heat, food, etc) and practicing safe firearm handling and practices, which will they forgo? **YOU are making them decide.....YOU and no one else.**

This proposed bill is in its core, taxing our constitutional rights.... you look at it as ammo is not covered and hence, we can make it harder to get. Then will less people with ammo, there will be less crime.....WELL, let me make this clear, it will **NOT** prevent crime. It **WILL** make people have less accuracy under already would be an **EXTREMELY** stressful event. This **ONLY** will hurt those trying to obey the law. Criminals will still have all the ammo they want, and continue to break the law....and by the way, they don't pay tax on ammo nor will they now.

In closing, I would like to make one last statement. This is a discriminatory bill. It will only be attached to a select group of people. A group of people who are exercising their 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Right under the US Constitution. Going after a select group of people is discrimination. I don't discriminate against anyone in my life, I also do not believe it should be done to anyone whether it is lifestyle, race, color, ethnicity or exercising rights....We should ALL be treated equally. To top it all off, every year this bill is proposed, we ask where would the tax money be allocated. Every year it comes down to programs maintained by organizations **DIRECTLY** working to take my rights away. How does that make sense? We all want a safer community, state, country. In order to successfully achieve that, **YOU** must enact laws that will stop criminals. These just put law abiding citizens in YOUR crosshairs.

Thank you for your time.

Michele McBrien  
Beacon Falls, CT 06403  
203-645-2116